

RICHARD B. RUSSELL DAM AND LAKE PROJECT

NOVEMBER 10 (legislative day, NOVEMBER 7), 1983.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. STAFFORD, from the Committee on Environment and Public Works,
submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany S. 912]

The Committee on Environment and Public Works, to which was referred the bill (S. 912) to modify the authority for the Richard Russell Dam and Lake project, and for other purposes, having considered the same, reports favorably thereon with an amendment and recommends that the bill (as amended) do pass.

OUTLINE OF THE BILL

S. 912 authorizes the Corps of Engineers to provide hydropower to the city of Abbeville, S.C., to mitigate losses at the city's existing hydropower plant which will occur when the Richard B. Russell Dam project is completed and the lake is filled.

As amended by the committee, the bill also provides for the deauthorization of a breakwater at Eastport Harbor, Maine.

DISCUSSION OF PROVISIONS

The city of Abbeville, S.C., currently owns and operates a hydroelectric plant upstream from the Richard B. Russell Dam, which was recently completed by the Corps of Engineers. Filling of the lake behind the dam has begun and in the spring of 1984 the water will be high enough to interfere with the production of power at Abbeville's power facility. This would impose a significant hardship on the city of Abbeville.

Although the corps anticipated this problem, they originally believed that re-engineering of the Abbeville powerplant could be performed in such a way as to nullify the effects of the rising water.

Further investigation proved this assumption to be false.

The most cost-effective solution now appears to provide to the city of Abbeville a portion of the power generated by the powerplant at the Richard B. Russell Dam, power that is equivalent to the losses at the Abbeville plant.

The total cost of providing Abbeville with the power, plus incidental expenses, is estimated at \$20,000 per year. This power will be less than 1 percent of the total generated at the Richard B. Russell Dam and will be provided for the remaining service life of the Abbeville powerplant—a period of approximately 40 years.

Section 2 of S. 912 deauthorizes a breakwater at Eastport Harbor, Maine, Eastport is a depressed area with approximately 30-percent unemployment. The town has undertaken projects to improve its economic conditions, including redevelopment of the port area. The improvement to the port requires the strengthening of the breakwater and the dredging of additional berthing capacity. The action will provide more competitive shiphandling operation and increase cargo capacity from 50,000 to 80,000 tons this year.

The breakwater is an authorized Corps of Engineers project. However, in 1980 a corps evaluation found that there was insufficient economic justification for future harbor maintenance or improvement projects in Eastport Harbor. Since the corps can no longer justify modification to the breakwater, the city wishes to finance the project through a bond issue and undertake the work itself.

All necessary permits and licenses have been approved, and non-Federal financing is expected to be available shortly. Work cannot commence, however, until the authorized breakwater project is deauthorized.

This provision provides the necessary deauthorization so that Eastport can move forward on its own with harbor improvements.

HEARINGS

On May 17, 1983, the committee received testimony from the mayor of Abbeville, S.C. The mayor fully supported the intent of S. 912.

POSITION OF THE ADMINISTRATION

S. 912 was introduced at the request of the administration. The letter of transmittal from Assistant Secretary of the Army William Gianelli of March 1983 which follows explains the administration position on S. 912.

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY,
Washington, D.C.

Hon. GEORGE BUSH,
President of the Senate,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: Enclosed is a draft of legislation "To modify the authority of the Richard B. Russell Dam and Lake project, and for other purposes."

The Office of Management and Budget advises that, from the standpoint of the administration's program, there is no objection to the presentation of this proposal for the consideration of the Congress. It is recommended that the proposal be enacted by the Congress.

PURPOSE OF THE LEGISLATION

The purpose of the proposed legislation is to authorize the Secretary of the Army, acting through the Chief of Engineers, to provide such power to the city of Abbeville, S.C., as the Secretary of the Army determines to be necessary to mitigate the reduction in hydroelectric power produced at a city-owned plant caused by the construction and operation of the Richard B. Russell Dam and Lake project (the project). The power would be provided to the city without charge for a period not to exceed the remaining service life of the city's plant as part of the operational requirements and costs of the project under such terms and conditions as the Secretary of the Army, in consultation with the Secretary of Energy, determines to be appropriate.

The city of Abbeville owns and operates a hydroelectric powerplant at Lake Secession upstream from the project on the Rocky River, a tributary of the Savannah River. Impoundments from the project will generally raise the level of the Rocky River, adversely affecting the operation and maintenance of the city-owned plant. In addition, the rise in water levels will make it impossible to generate as much power at the Lake Secession plant as would have been the case without the project.

Existing legislation (section 111 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1958, as amended) provides discretionary authority, at Federal expense, of facilities owned by a government agency and utilized in the performance of a continuing governmental function when such facilities would otherwise be adversely affected or threatened by construction of any Federal water resources development project. Pursuant to this authority the Chief of Engineers intends to undertake certain construction efforts to remedy the impediment to the operation and maintenance of the city's plant. However, section 111 only envisions construction of remedial works; it does not authorize providing power to mitigate for power losses attributable to the Federal project.

The situation at Abbeville has been closely studied and it has been determined that the cost of remedial construction for power losses is prohibitively high. Estimates of the cost of any construction efforts to correct the power generation problem and allow energy generation as before are in the range of \$3 million to \$20 million. Further, the construction options considered involve state of the art technology and offer no guarantee of success.

The legislation recommended is equitable in that it strives to place the city on the same footing as prior to construction and operation of the project by providing power from an existing source in a cost effective manner.

COST AND BUDGET DATA

Enactment of the proposed legislation is not expected to have any significant impact on the budgetary requirements of the Department of the Army. The costs associated with this proposal, including the cost of the power delivered and any incidental increases in the operating expenses associated with the actual delivery of the power, will be treated as a part of the joint costs of the project to be allocated among all project purposes. These costs, currently estimated to be ap-

proximately \$20,000 per year over the remaining service life of the city's plant, are far below the estimated costs of any remedial construction effort to mitigate for power losses.

ENVIRONMENTAL AND CIVIL RIGHTS IMPACTS

Enactment of the proposed legislation will not have any significant environmental or civil rights impacts.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM R. GIANELLI,
Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works).

ROLLCALL VOTES

Section 7(b) of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate and the rules of the Committee on Environment and Public Works require that any rollcall votes taken during consideration of this bill be announced in this report.

S. 912, as amended, was approved on a voice vote by the Committee on Environment and Public Works on November 8, 1983.

EVALUATION OF REGULATORY IMPACT

In accordance with paragraph 11(b) of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the committee has evaluated the regulatory impact of the bill. Since the bill only slightly modifies the authority for a project within the jurisdiction of the Corps of Engineers and deauthorizes one other Corps of Engineers project, it creates no new regulatory implications.

COST OF LEGISLATION

Section 403 of the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act requires publication in each report of a statement of the cost of the legislation prepared by the Congressional Budget Office. The report follows:

U.S. CONGRESS,
CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE,
Washington, D.C., November 10, 1983.

HON. ROBERT T. STAFFORD,
Chairman, Committee on Environment and Public Works, U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The Congressional Budget Office has reviewed S. 912, a bill to modify the authority for the Richard B. Russell Dam and Lake project, and for other purposes, as ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works, November 8, 1983. We estimate that implementing this bill would not significantly affect Federal, State, or local government budgets.

The bill authorizes the Secretary of the Army to provide power to the city of Abbeville, S.C. to compensate for the reduction in the city's hydroelectric power production caused by the Richard B. Russell Dam and Lake project. This requirement would cost the Federal Govern-

ment about \$20,000 annually over a 40-year period. The bill also deauthorizes a navigation project at Eastport Harbor, Maine, and transfers title to the project facilities to the city of Eastport. This provision would save the Federal Government about \$8,000 annually in maintenance expenses.

Further details on this estimate can be obtained from Anne E. Hoffman of our Budget Analysis Division (226-2860).

Sincerely,

RUDOLPH G. PENNER.

CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW

In compliance with section 12 of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, changes in existing law made by the bill as reported are to be shown. There are no changes made to existing law by this bill.

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